

HOUSE BILL 897  
By Cooper B

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to adequate and progressive funding for  
high priority schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-3-356, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) adding the following as a new subsection (b):

(b)

(1) In addition to any state funds required by subsection (a), the state shall also provide sufficient funds to adequately and progressively fund a community education program for high priority schools, as such schools are defined in section 49-1-601(c). A community education program for such schools shall support enhancements to curriculum to enable such schools to satisfactorily meet educational standards set by state or federal law and shall also support the placement in such schools of social workers, health nurses, and home school communication and family liaison workers.

(2) The state board of education is authorized to develop policies, formulas and guidelines to implement the provisions of this subsection pursuant to section 49-1-302(4). Subject to appropriations in the general appropriation act, for a period of five (5) years from the effective date of this act the state board of education is authorized to provide such funding for a pilot program with one (1) or more high priority schools in school districts in each grand division of the state. During the duration of the pilot project, the state board may also authorize research concerning high drop out rates and low academic achievement in high priority schools.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.